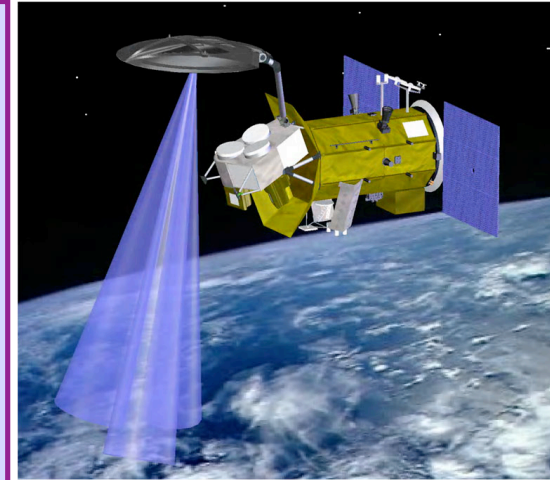


AQUARIUS/SAC-D PROJECT OVERVIEW

Salient Features

- *Earth System Science Pathfinder (ESSP) Mission*
- *NASA-CONAE Partnership Science Mission*
- *NASA: L-band Radiometer / Scatterometer*
- *CONAE: Service Platform & Mission Operations Center*
- *Dedicated Delta II launch vehicle provided by NASA*
- *Launch Readiness Date: March 2009*
- *Aquarius Operational life: 3 years*



Science

- *Investigate the links between the global water cycle, ocean circulation and climate*
- *Make global, space-based measurements of Sea Surface Salinity (SSS)*
- *Provide 0.2 psu (practical salinity unit) accuracy at monthly, 150 km resolution*
- *Observe and model seasonal and year-to-year variations of SSS, and how these relate to changes in the water cycle and ocean circulation*
- *Aquarius will yield an unprecedented view of ocean's role in climate and weather*